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Application No. 09/890,214
Amendment dated January 25, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 25, 2006

Docket No.: 0941-1693PUS1

REMARKS

Claims 3-7, 9, 12-13 and 15-17 are now present in this application.

Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 have been amended, claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11 and 14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 16 and 17 have been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kishida, U.S. Patent 6,348,950. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 103

Claims 2 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kishida in view of Yoshida, U.S. Patent 5,168,362. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is noted that claims 2 and 14 have been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 5-7, 9, 13 and 15 to be allowed, and claims 3, 4 and 10-12 to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which claims 3 and 4 have been rewritten into independent form, it is

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respectfully submitted that these claims should now be in condition for allowance. Claim 12 should also be in condition for allowance based on its dependency from claim 3.

With regard to claims 10 and 11, it is noted that similar limitations to those set forth in these claims can be found in independent claims 3 and 4 and, as such, these claims 10 and 11 have been cancelled.

Newly Presented Claims

Support for newly presented claims 16 and 17 can be found on page 3, line 9, of the originally filed specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is present. These claims should be allowable based on their dependency from allowable claims 3 and 4.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$120.00 is attached herewith.

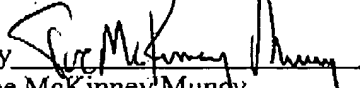
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 25, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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